

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 5034 ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE
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S E C R E T USNATO 5034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVING NATO'S FORCE GOAL PLANNING
SYSTEM

1. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW IN PARAGRAPH 4 THE TEXT OF A DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVING NATO'S FORCE GOAL PLANNING SYSTEM THAT, ACCORDING TO THE DTUCH DEFENSE ADVISOR (WYNAENDTS,) REFLECTS THE VIEW OF MOD VREDELING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT VREDELING DISCUSSED THIS PROPOSAL WITH FORMER MOD MASON AND INTENDS TO DISCUSS IT WITH MOD LEBER. ESSENTIALLY, THE PROPOSAL CALLS FOR (A) INCLUSION OF NATO'S COLLECTIVE MILITARY DEFICIENCIES IN THE MILITARY APPRECIATION AND (B) PRELIMINARY MINISTERIAL DECISION THIS FALL ON REMEDIAL ACTIONS. THE DUTCH INTEND TO RAISE THIS FORMALLY IN NATO IN THE NEAR TERM BUT WOULD LIKE OUR INSTRUCTED REACTION BEFOREHAND, PREFERABLY BY 24 SEPTEMBER. THE DUTCH HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR INSTRUCTED COMMENT FROM THE UK AND FRG.

2. THOUGH THE PROPOSAL IS AMBIGUOUS AND MAY BE SUSPECT, WE DO AGREE WITH THE GOAL OF IMPROVING NATO'S COLLECTIVE VIEW OF ITS DEFICIENCIES. WE BELIEVE HOWEVER, THAT THE NMAS

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ARE LIKELY TO RESIST THE PROPOSAL ON THE BASIS THAT THE

MILITARY APPRECIATION IS TOO FAR ALONG IN DEVELOPMENT TO INCORPORATE SPECIFIC DEFICIENCIES AND REMEDIAL PROPOSALS ON WHICH MINISTERS COULD ACT. WE PROPOSE, THEREFORE, THAT WE SUPPORT THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE DUTCH PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE, SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE FURTHER CLARIFICATION AND A MORE REALISTIC APPROACH ON TIMING.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY 24 SEPTEMBER.

4. BEGIN TEXT:

1. AT THE MINISTERIAL DPC MEETING OF JUNE OF THIS YEAR, THE NETHERLANDS MINISTER OF DEFENCE RECOGNISED THE USEFULNESS OF ESTABLISHING FORCE GOALS AS A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE OBJECTIVE OF REACHING COLLECTIVE AND INTEGRATED FORCE PLANS. HE IS OF THE OPINION, HOWEVER, THAT, WITHOUT MAKING BASIC CHANGES, SOME REFINEMENT OF THE PROCEDURES FOR THE PRESENT NATO DEFENCE PLANNING REVIEW, AS LAID DOWN IN DPC/D (71)10 IS DESIRABLE, TO ACHIEVE A MORE INTEGRATED NATO APPROACH.

2. THEREFORE IT IS THOUGHT, THAT IT WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT, IF THE FORCE GOALS PER COUNTRY COULD, ON AN ALLIANCE-WIDE OR REGIONAL BASIS, BE PRECEDED BY AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT BY THE MNA'S OF THE MILITARY MEASURES, NECESSARY TO IMPROVE SURVIVABILITY AND CORRECT CRITICAL OPERATIONAL DEFICIENCIES OF NATO FORCES, OF SUCH CRITICAL IMPORTANCE THAT WITHOUT SUCH IMPLEMENTATIONS THE VERY SURVIVABILITY OF NATO FORCES IS JEOPARDISED. IN THE ASSESSMENT ATTENTION SHOULD ESPECIALLY BE FOCUSED ON THE SHORTFALL - INCLUDING MAIN DEFICIENCIES 1) - BETWEEN WHAT IS NECESSARY AND WHAT IS AVAILABLE.

3. NMA'S SHOULD INDICATE AREAS WHERE, BY FURTHER RATIONALISATION GREATER EFFICIENCY, FLEXIBILITY - AND STANDARDISATION, SAVINGS COULD BE MADE, WHICH COULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS REDUCING THE SHORTFALL.

1) EXAMPLE: UP-DATE OF AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS.

4. ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE REACHED BY THE MINISTERS ON THE QUESTION
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TO WHAT EXTENT AND HOW THE SHORTFALL SHOULD AND CAN BE CORRECTED. THUS IT WOULD BECOME THEIR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO REMEDY THE MOST URGENT SHORTFALLS ON A COMMONLY AGREED BASIS. THE ALLIANCE WILL THUS STIMULATE NATO COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT THEIR SHARE IN THE SOLUTION OF THEIR COMMON PROBLEM. IT IS THE NETHERLANDS CONVICTION THAT IF THE ATTENTION OF THE NMS'S AND THE MINISTERS WERE TO BE DIRECTED IN THIS WIDER FRAMEWORK TOWARDS FURTHER RATIONALISATION THE RESULT WOULD BE A MORE MEANINGFUL AND COSTEFFECTIVE

USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES, WITHIN THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE.

5. TO PROMOTE AN EARLY INTRODUCTION OF THIS REFINEMENT OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING PROCESS, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, THAT THE MILITARY APPRECIATION, ENCOMPASSING THE ABOVE PROPOSALS, WOULD BE PRESENTED TO MINISTERS AT THEIR AUTUMN MINISTERIAL DPC MEETING, AS THIS WOULD ALLOW A DIRECT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE MINISTERS AND THE NMA'S. MINISTERS WILL THEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A COMMON PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ABOUT THE SHORTFALL, INDICATING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO WHAT EXTENT AND HOW IT SHOULD BE REMEDIED.

6. MORE DEFINITE INSTRUCTIONS WOULD FURTHER BE ELABORATED IN THE COURSE OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, WHICH MINISTERS WILL FINALISE IN THEIR SPRING MEETING. THE EFFECT WILL BE THAT THE SHORTFALL CAN BE SEEN IN ITS' TOTALITY AND ALL THE RELEVANT ASPECTS CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN REDYING IT.END TEXT. STREATOR UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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